# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1565
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
FOREIGN SECRETARY`S VISIT TO USA
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether India`s Foreign Secretary visited USA in May this year for talks on various bilateral and multilateral issues;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed; and (

(c) the outcome thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Yes, Sir. Foreign Secretary visited the United States from 17-19 May 2001 for Foreign Office Consultations and the Asian Security Dialogue with the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. These are part of the Dialogue Architecture between India and the United States established in March 2000.

(b) The two sides discussed bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest, including the development of a stronger, more broad-based and more productive relationship between India and the United States; recent developments in Asia; security and stability in the Asian and wider international contexts; and, a range of multilateral issues, including counter-terrorism and UN Peacekeeping Operations.

(c) The dialogue provided Government the opportunity to strengthen understanding with the new United States Government on issues of mutual interest. The two sides also reiterated their commitment to the Dialogue Architecture and its further development as a means to pursue strong bilateral ties between the two countries. Following Foreign Secretary`s visit, meetings of the Joint Working Groups on Counter-terrorism and UN Peacekeeping Operations were held in the last week of June 2001.